

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues continue to find different ways of saying no to the health care reform that the American people so desperately need and want. One of those outrageous ways of saying no is to claim that the government is somehow going to get between doctors and their patients.

Well, America's seniors know that is not the case, because under Medicare, doctor-patient relationships are sacred. Veterans know that is not the case, because the VA knows that doctor-patient relationships are sacred.

But the people of California don't know that. A recent study revealed that 22 percent of the claims made to insurance companies are denied. Now who is getting between the doctor and patient relationship? It is the insurance companies, not the government.

Republicans ought to figure out a way to say yes instead of no. It has been 126 days and counting since the Republican leadership said they were going to advance a plan to reform America's health care. Instead, they still find crazy ways to say no. It is time for them to join us in saying yes.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not cost patients their health care. Unfortunately, several of the plans that have been passed by this House and are now being written in secret in the Speaker's Office with the White House will do just that.

If it is cheaper for employers to drop employees from employer-sponsored insurance and move them into a public option, employers will do just that.

One-quarter of America's seniors who enjoy the added benefits of Medicare Advantage will lose their coverage. They get the things we want them to get: care coordination, disease management, medical homes, the things that we have told our seniors we will provide for them. And yet they will lose it under the health care reform. Millions more Americans will be moved into Medicaid.

Patients whose doctors can no longer afford their liability insurance will lose their doctor if we don't pass some sort of meaningful liability reform. Not just another study, but meaningful liability reform like we passed in Texas in 2003, and the point has been proven over the years since that has happened.

Portability should bring hundreds of more choices. We don't need a public option that will simply deliver a single additional choice.

No cuts to Medicare. America's seniors have paid, and they deserve better.

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#### SAYING NO TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it's been 125 days, 126 days since Representative ROY BLUNT, the point man for the rumored Republican alternative health reform plan, said: I guarantee you we will provide you with a bill. Republican leaders from Governor Bobby Jindal to former Senate majority leaders Bill Frist and Bob Dole have indicated that Republicans need to work with Democrats to offer health care solutions.

But rather than coming up with a plan to lower health care costs and stop insurance companies from discriminating against you if you get sick, Republicans are choosing to be the party of "no" and the status quo.

No is not a solution. Saying no costs the average family \$1,800 in increased health costs each year. Health insurance reform is about putting the American people and doctors back in charge, not the insurance companies, to guarantee stability, lower costs, higher equality and more choices of plans. Our friends on the other side of the aisle can't run away from the fact that they have no plan, as much as they might like to. The time to act on health insurance reform is now.

#### UNCERTAINTY HURTS JOB CREATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrat policies in Washington are creating uncertainty across America. This uncertainty is chilling job creation, and small businesses have to wait and see when the next tax increase or government mandate is going to arrive. Whether it is more government intrusion into the financial sector, a national energy tax, devaluation of their dollar, a Big Government health care takeover, small businesses see a Democrat agenda that is out of touch with their needs.

Further promoting this uncertainty is the Democrats' refusal to provide the transparency they promised. Long gone are the plans to draft a health care bill in public. Now those decisions are made behind closed doors. The Democrat leadership is even refusing to hold a vote on a proposal to have all legislation available online for 72 hours.

We need to say "yes" on H.R. 3400, health insurance reform. Republicans have a bill for access and affordability, and I urge my Democrat colleagues to consider H.R. 3400.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### PUBLIC OPTION MYTH BUSTER

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it's been 126 days since the Republican leadership promised a health care bill and today, 126, still no bill. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight. The American people overwhelmingly support a robust public health option. And despite months and months of insurance companies, lobbyists and even political leaders spreading the myth that the American people don't support a public health insurance option, we have clear evidence to the contrary. A poll released by The Washington Post and ABC News earlier this week confirmed that 57 percent of Americans support a public health insurance option.

The American people realize that the current system is broken, the status quo is unacceptable and the time for real health care reform is now. But instead of supporting reform, the party of "no" 126 days later, and insurance profit-mongers continue to work to kill reform and defend a system that discriminates against people with chronic illnesses, a history of domestic violence and continues to see premiums and deductibles skyrocket, forcing 14,000 Americans each day to lose their health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken and it's time for all Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to listen. They want real health care reform, a robust public option to expend coverage, create real competition and bring down costs.

#### AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, the State of Florida leads the Nation with one of the toughest right-to-know laws in the country. Florida's strong Sunshine Law guards against back-room deals and secret negotiation by government officials. Democracy thrives best when the people are fully involved and engaged.

Along these lines, I've introduced a resolution demanding that the critical decisions made on the sweeping health care reform bill now before Congress be conducted under the watchful eye of the American people. My resolution puts the House on record against secret, closed-door deals on a health care bill that seeks to overhaul one-sixth of our country's entire economy. In the past, massive legislative measures have been written in the middle of the night by a handful of Members and staff and then quickly passed into law before the American people have had a chance to even see what the final version looks like, let alone determine how they feel about it.